



HF Happenings



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iau.org www.iau-r1.org

May

1 - Worker's Day
3 to 5 - Riebeeck Valley Olive Festival
5 - ZS3 Sprint
9 - Ascension Day
10 - Solar eclipse
11 - AWA AM Valve QSO party; Time Aviation SAAF Museum Air Show, AFB Swartkops
12 - AWA SSB Valve QSO party
10 to 12 - Nuy Valley Festival; Celtic Festival, Edenvale
12 - Mother's Day; Mother's Day Vintage Train to Cullinan
16 - Radio Amateur Exam
17 to 19 - Dayton Ham-vention, USA
18 - SA AMSAT Space Symposium
18 and 19 - The Day of the YLs'
19 - Pentecost Sunday
23 to 26 - Good Food and Wine Show, Cape Town
24 May to 2 June - The Royal Show, Pietermaritzburg
25 and 26 - CQ WPX CW Contest; Sasol Bird Fair
25 - Lunar eclipse
26 - SARL Digital Contest



Issue: 557

May 2013

Changes to the All Africa Award

The council of the SARL have accepted a proposal to allow credits on Logbook of The World (LoTW) to be used when submitting applications for the All Africa Award. The rules are currently being modified. Once finalised the new rules and details on how to use LoTW credits will be published, after which applications can be submitted.



Details will be given in SARL News and on the SARL Web pages. The information will be distributed to IARU Member Societies in Regions 1, 2 and 3 by the Region 1 Secretary.

5 MHz Operation Already Showing Interesting Propagation Paths

A large number of SARL members have already registered to operate on the 5 MHz band. The SARL recently purchased licenses for two frequencies, 5 250 and 5 260 kHz. The two frequencies are only available to SARL members who have registered. Check the website at www.sarl.org.za and select 'Propagation Research' in the left hand panel and follow the links. If your name and call sign are not listed you may not operate on the two 5 MHz frequencies. Use by unregistered persons amounts to unauthorised use and could result being fined by the licensing authority. Registration is normally completed within 3 days.

The SARL is considering various proposals for propagation experiments on 5 250 kHz and held a teleconference on Wednesday 22 May to discuss proposals.

Further you will need a radio that can transmit on 5 250 and 5 260 kHz, a piece of co-ax cable, two pieces of wire about 13,63 metres long and a mast or tower from which to suspend your inverted V.

SARL Digital Contest

The second leg of the SARL Digital Contest will be held on Sunday 26 May from 13:00 UTC to 16:00 UTC or 15:00 to 18:00 CAT. The aim is to establish as many contacts as possible between radio amateurs in Southern Africa using the PSK31 / RTTY modes. The contest is open to all radio amateurs in Southern Africa, see General Rules 1.b.

Activity is on 80 metres (3 580 to 3 600 kHz); 40 metres (7 040 to 7 060 kHz) and 20 metres (14 070 to 14 099 kHz). PSK31 is preferred at the lower end of

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Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org

And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk



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the specified frequencies and RTTY is preferred at the upper end of the specified frequencies. Please note that USB must be used at all times. Refer to General Rule 16.

A station may be contacted twice on each band, once on RTTY and once on PSK31. The exchange is a RST report plus a sequential serial number starting at 001.

Contacts with stations listed in General Rule 1.b are worth 3 points. Contacts with stations NOT listed in General Rule 1.b are worth 1 point. The first contact with each area listed below will be used as a band multiplier.

Area 1: ZS1 ; Area 2: ZS2; Area 3: ZS3; Area 4: ZS4; Area 5: ZS5; Area 6: ZS6; Area 7: 3DA, 7P, 7Q, 9J, C9, A2, D2, V5, Z2, ZD7, ZD9, ZS7, ZS8, FR, 3B8, 5R, FH and D6 and Area 8: Stations in the rest of the world.

The scoring: band total = QSO points X number of call areas worked per band. The final score = sum of the band totals. Logs shall be submitted by Monday 3 June by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za.

NOTE: the Digital contest on 18 August 2013 is run using the rules of the SARL HF Contest, see page 44 of the Contest Manual.

The ZS4 Sprint

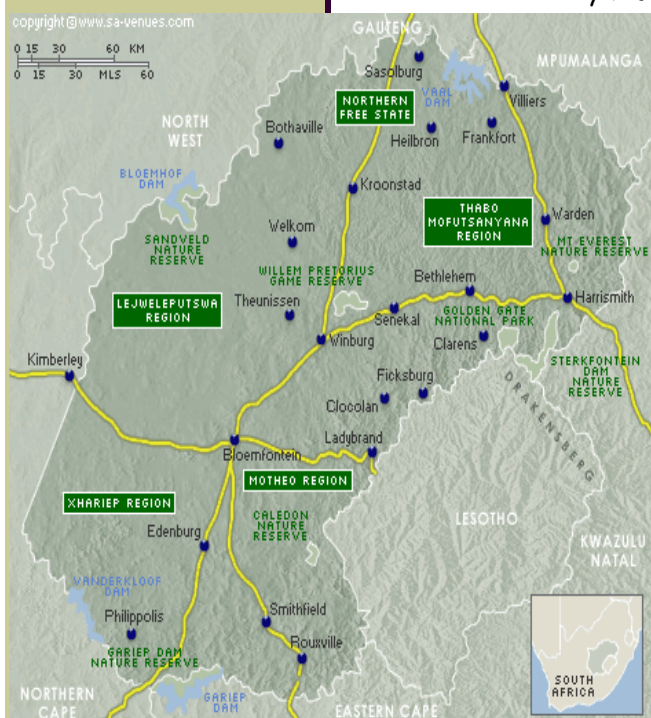
This is a fun activity to promote contacts between radio amateurs in the Free State and radio amateurs in Southern African countries. The Sprint is a phone and CW contest on the 40-metre band and is on the air on Sunday 9 June from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC or 16:00 to 17:00 CAT

The exchange for ZS4 stations is a RS(T) report and town name or abbreviation. For all other stations it is a RS(T) report and provincial or country abbreviation.

Scoring - For ZS4: Contacts with stations in ZS4 are worth 1 point and contacts with stations in other ZS call areas or Southern African countries are worth 2 points. For other stations: Contacts with stations in ZS4 are worth 2 points and contacts with stations in own or other ZS call areas (excluding ZS4) or Southern African countries are worth 1 point.

Contacts with the Bloemfontein ARC, ZS4BFN, Vrystaat Radioklub, ZS4B, the Welkom Radio Club, ZS4WRC, or the Sasolburg ARC, ZS4SRK is worth 5 points each, only one contact per station is allowed

Log sheets shall be submitted by 17 June by e-mail to riaanzs4pr@gmail.com with a copy to fwolff@global.co.za. A certificate will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the competition.



South African Islands-on-the-Air

At the 2013 SARL National Convention, I was asked by a ZS6 radio amateur about the lack of activity from islands along the coast of South Africa. I did not have an answer. I could have said that radio amateurs in ZS1 and ZS2 do not have outdoor radios and antennas, boats, ships, rubber ducks or that they are scared of the sea! It would seem that ZS3 and ZS5

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has no islands! I decided to have a look at which islands are listed in the IOTA directory and find out more about them.

Let us start with IOTA AF-021 which is some distance from our coast. The last activation was in 2010 by Pierre, ZS8M/ZS1HF. Yes, Prince Edward and Marion Islands is IOTA AF-021, and will soon be active again when ZS8C and ZS8Z get on the air.

Prince Edward Islands (from Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia)

The Prince Edward Islands are two small islands in the sub-Antarctic Indian Ocean that are part of South Africa. The islands are named Marion Island (*named after Marc-Joseph Marion du Fresne*) and Prince Edward Island.

The islands in the group have been declared Special Nature Reserves under the South African Environmental Management Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003, and activities on the islands are therefore restricted to research and conservation management. The only human inhabitants of the islands are the staff of a meteorological and biological research station run by the South African National Antarctic Programme on Marion Island. The island group is about 955 nautical miles or 1 769 km southeast of Port Elizabeth.

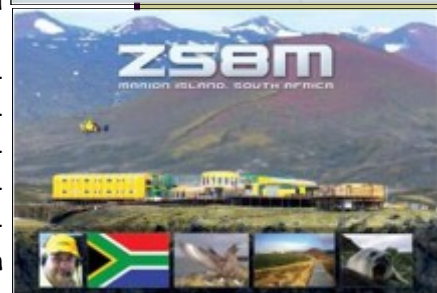
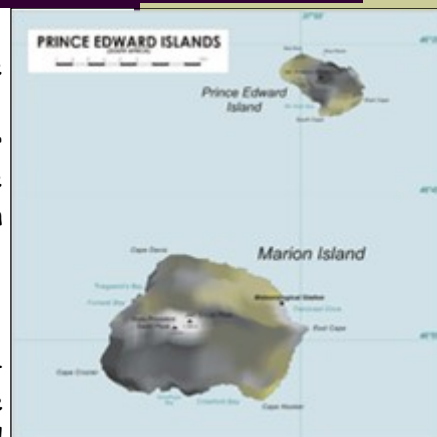
Marion Island (46° 54' 45" S 37° 44' 37" E), the larger of the two, is 25,03 km long and 16,65 km wide with an area of 290 km² and a coastline of some 72 km, most of which is high cliffs. The highest point on Marion Island is Mascarin Peak (formerly State President Swart Peak), reaching 1 242 m above sea level (*and does not have a SOTA number*).

Prince Edward Island (46° 38' 39" S 37° 56' 36" E) is much smaller - only about 45 km², 10,23 km long and 6,57 km wide - and lies some 12 nautical miles or 22,2 km to the north-east of Marion Island. At the Van Zinderen Bakker Peak north-west of the centre, it reaches a height of 672 metres. There are a few offshore rocks along the northern coast, like Ship Rock (100 m north of northernmost point) and Ross Rocks (500 m from the shore).

Both islands are of volcanic origin. Marion Island is one of the peaks of a large underwater shield volcano that rises some 5 000 metres from the sea floor to the top of Mascarin Peak. The volcano is active, with eruptions having occurred between 1980 and 2004.

The islands lie directly in the path of eastward-moving depressions all year round and this gives them an unusually cool and windy climate. Strong winds blow almost every day of the year and the prevailing wind direction is north-westerly. Annual rainfall averages from 2 400 mm up to over 3 000 mm on Mascarin Peak. It rains on average about 320 days a year (about 28 days a month) and the islands are among the cloudiest places in the world - about 1 300 hours a year of sunshine occurs on the sheltered eastern side of Marion Island but only around 800 away from the coast and on the wet western sides of Marion and Prince Edward Islands. Summer and winter have fairly similar climates with cold winds and threat of snow or frost at any time of the year. However, the mean temperature in February

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(midsummer) is 8,3 °C and in August (midwinter) it is 3,9 °C.

The islands are part of the Southern Indian Ocean Islands tundra ecoregion that includes several subantarctic islands. In this cold climate, plants are mainly limited to grasses and mosses, while lichens are the most visible fungi. The main indigenous animals are insects along with large populations of seabirds, seals and penguins. The waters surrounding the islands are often frequented by several species of whale, especially Orcas that prey on penguins and seals.

The wildlife is particularly vulnerable to introduced species and one particular problem has been cats. In 1949, five domestic cats were brought to Marion Island to deal with a mouse problem in the station. The cats multiplied quickly and by 1977 there were approximately 3 400 cats on the island, feeding on burrowing petrels instead of mice, threatening to drive the birds to extinction on the island. Some species of petrels became extinct on Marion Island, and a "cat eradication program" was established. A few cats were infected with the highly specific feline panleukopenia virus, which reduced the cat population to about 600 by 1982. The remaining cats were killed by nocturnal shooting, and in 1991, only eight cats were trapped in a 12-month period. It is believed that no cats remain on Marion Island today.

The islands were discovered on 4 March 1663 by Barent Barentszoon Lam of the Dutch ship *Maerseeven* and were named *Dina* (Prince Edward) and *Maerseeven* (Marion). In January 1772, Marc-Joseph Marion du Fresne visited the islands and spent five days trying to land, thinking he had found Antarctica (then not yet proven to exist). He named the islands *Terre de l'Espérance* (Marion) and *Ile de la Caverne* (Pr. Edward). In 1776, his expedition, now headed by his second-in-command, Jules Crozet, after the death of du Fresne, met James Cook in Cape Town. Cook subsequently set sail for the islands, but was unable to attempt a landing because of bad weather. Cook named the smaller island after Prince Edward, the fourth son of King George III, and to the larger gave the name of Marc-Joseph Marion du Fresne.

The first recorded landing was in late 1803 and was made by a group of seal hunters led by American captain Henry Fanning of the *Catharine*. These sealers, however, found signs of earlier human occupation, probably other sealers. James Clark Ross also visited the islands in 1840 but was also unable to land. Finally, the islands were surveyed by Captain George Nares in 1873.

In 1908, the British government, assuming ownership of the islands, granted William Newton the rights to exploit guano deposits for the next twenty-one years. Also in 1908, shipwrecked hunters established a village at the north coast, called Fairbairn Settlement. A ten-year grant for seal exploitation was issued by the British to a sealing company in 1926.

In late 1947 and early 1948, South Africa, with Britain's agreement, annexed the islands and installed the meteorological station on Transvaal Cove on the north-east coast of Marion Island. The research station was soon enlarged and today researches the biology of the islands, in particular the birds (penguins, petrels, albatrosses, gulls) and seals. Today, the research station is called RSA Marion Station.

On 22 September 1979, the Vela Incident occurred. One of the US Vela satellites used to monitor compliance with the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty recorded an event near the Prince Edward Islands that had the characteristic "double flash" signature of a small nuclear test. However it was never proven conclusively if this was a nuclear test or not, so the event remains controversial.

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Prince Edward, after whom the islands are named



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Marion Island and Prince Edward Island were claimed for South Africa by a South African Navy force from the HMSAS *Transvaal* under the command of John Fairburn on 29 December 1947 and 4 January 1948 respectively. On 1 October 1948, the annexation was made official when Governor-General Gideon Brand van Zyl signed the Prince Edward Islands Act, 1948. In terms of the Act, the islands fall under the jurisdiction of the Cape Town Magistrate's Court and South African law as applied in the Western Cape applies on them. The islands are also deemed to be situated within the electoral district containing the Port of Cape Town; as of 2006 this is ward 55 of the City of Cape Town.

As of 2013, Marion Island, prefix ZS8, was the tenth most wanted DXCC "entity" by the amateur radio community, 14th on the Clublog most wanted list. Here is a list of past ZS8 operations: 1948 - ZS2MI; 1953 - ZS6ZU/2; 1955 - ZS2MI; 1958 to 1959 - ZS2MI; 1963 to 1965 - ZS2MI; 1967 - ZS2MI; 1969 to 1975 - ZS2MI; 1977 to 1981 - ZS2MI; 1987 - ZS2MI; 1990 - ZS8MI; 1996 - ZS8IR; 1997 - ZS8IR; 1999 - ZS8D; 2000 - ZS8D; 2004 - ZS8MI; 2008 - ZS8T; 2010 - ZS8M; 2013—ZS8C and ZS8Z

Prince Edward Island features as the setting for the climax of the maritime adventure story *South Trap* (aka *Southtrap*) by Geoffrey Jenkins. The Prince Edward Islands and particularly Marion Island feature prominently in the 1929 novel *Mary of Marion Isle* by Sir H. Rider Haggard <http://arthursbookshelf.com/adventure/haggard/mary%20of%20marion%20isle.pdf>

The next group on my list is IOTA AF-085 Western Cape Province North West Group (31° 10' - 33° 00' S 17° 47' - 18° 20' E) and only one island name appears in this group. That is Elephant Rock. There is almost no information available on the internet about Elephant Rock. I find an item on the Tracks4Africa web site telling that the island is 8,21 km from Papendorp, 11,5 km from Ebenhaeser, 14,7 km from Strandfontein and 14,9 km from Voorbeeld Nedersetting. And further that it is home to White-breasted Cormorant, Cape Cormorant, Crowned Cormorant and Kelp Gulls.

Some more scratching around and I think the co-ordinates for Elephant Rock are S31 38 38.8 E18 08 35.3 (JF98bi) and as the crow flies it is about 7,6 km up the coast from the Olifants River mouth, 19,5 km from Koekenaap, 21,3 km from Lutzville, 34,6 km from Vredendal and 57 km from Vanrhynsdorp.

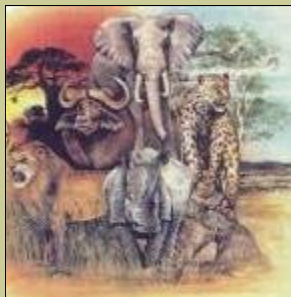
The only Amateur radio activity that I am aware of from Elephant Rock is the April 2000 ZS31ER DXpedition. Barry Fletcher, ZS1FJ/9V1FJ was the QSL Manager. I worked Malcolm on 3 April 2000 at 16:21 UTC on 14,260 MHz and I have the QSL card. *But I would say Elephant Rock is ZS1 as the ZS1/ZS3 border is about 65 km further up the coast.*

Marion Island may be a tad difficult for us 'normal' radio amateurs to activate, but Elephant Rock could be an option as you cruise the West Coast looking at the flowers and eating crawfish and snoek! In the next issue of HF Happenings, I will look at IOTA AF-064, AF-077 and AF-079.

African DX

Senegal, 6V. Vladimir "Vlad", RK4FF, will once again be active as 6V7S from Le Calao in Ngaparou until 30 May. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. He is scheduled to be here two more times this year 10 to 16 July and 22 October to 27 November. QSL via RK4FF.





This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 20 to 27 May 2013



African Islands

Madeira. Operators Winfried, DK9IP, Andree, DL8LAS, and Holger, DL9EE, will be active as CR3L for the CQ WW WPX CW Contest, 25 and 26 May, from Santana, Ilha da Madeira (IOTA AF-014, DIP MA-001, PIP MD-001, WLOTA 0053, WW Loc IM12nt). Plans are for a Multi-? entry. QSL via DJ6QT.

IOTA Award Credits

The following operations have been approved for IOTA awards credit: TS8TI (AF-083), SU8N (AF-109), XF2E (NA-171), V31HU (NA-180), V31MV (NA-180a), V32EE (NA-180), A35UD (OC-049), YB6N (OC-161) and DX8DX (OC-174 & OC-225).

DARC Awards: PDF versions and payment via Paypal

After a successful test phase certain DARC awards will become available as PDF for reduced fees, and payment via Paypal has been implemented too. At the same time fees for printed awards were adjusted to actual costs. From June 2013 onwards printed awards will cost 7 Euro, while PDF awards will be available for 3 Euro. Implementation will start with the WAE-Award, others will follow.

Contest Calendar

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 22 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus

Points: 5 points per Centurion member

QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune

member QSO per band; 25 points per

QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 26 May 2013

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at:

www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/sks-submit.html

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC

22 May and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 23 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 25 May 2013

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 23 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 30 May 2013

Upload log at:

www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl

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Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2013/r80mcc.shtml

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 24 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 26 May 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

CQ WW WPX CW Contest

00:00 UTC 25 May to 23:59 UTC 26 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high - Tribander or Rookie; Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high - Tribander or Rookie; Single Op Assisted All Band - QRP, low or high - Tribander or Rookie; Single Op Assisted Single Band - low or high - Tribander or Rookie;

Multi-Single; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi

Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours with off times of at least 60 minutes; Multi-Op: 48 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100

watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 6 points per 160, 80, 40 m

QSO with different continent; 3 points per 20, 15, 10 m QSO with different continent; 2 points per 160, 80, 40 m QSO with same continent different country; 1 point per 20, 15, 10 m QSO with same continent different country; 4 points per 160, 80, 40 m QSO between stations in NA; 2 points per 20, 15, 10 m QSO between stations in NA; 1 point per QSO with same country (except in NA)

Multipliers: Prefixes once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 June 2013

E-mail logs to: cw@cqwpx.com

Upload log at: <http://www.cqwpx.com/logcheck/>

Mail logs to: SSB WPX Contest, 11 Hollis Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.cqwpx.com/rules.htm>

Portuguese Navy Day Contest, Digital

08:00 - 00:00 UTC 25 May

Mode: Digital

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op

Exchange: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: See rules

Multipliers: Each prefix once per band per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 15 June 2013

E-mail logs to: contest@nra.pt

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.nra.pt/navy--contest-2013-in.html>

QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint

20:00 local - 23:59 local 25 May

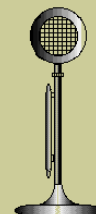
Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: All Band; Single Band; High Bands; Low Bands

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and ARCI no or power

Work stations: Once per band



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HF Happenings

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QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with ARCI member; 4 points per non-member QSO with different continent; 2 points per non-member QSO with same continent; Bonus: 5 000 points if you operate portable using battery power and a temporary antenna

Multipliers: States, once per band, VE Provinces, once per band, Countries, once per band

Power Mult: $>5\text{ W} = \times 1$, $1 - 5\text{ W} = \times 7$, $250\text{ mW} - 1\text{ W} = \times 10$, $55 - 250\text{ mW} = \times 15$, $<55\text{ mW} = \times 20$

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points \times (state mults and province mults and country mults) \times power mult) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 9 June 2013

E-mail logs to: contest@qrparci.org

Mail logs to: ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint, c/o Brian Campbell, PO Box 135, 46485

Sparta Line, Sparta, Ontario N0L 2H0, Canada

Find rules at: <http://www.qrparci.org/>

contests/qrparci-contests/121-hoot-owl-sprint-2013

SARL Digital Contest

13:00 - 16:00 UTC, May 26

Mode: PSK, RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and QSO no

Work stations: Once per mode per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation:

Total score = total QSO points \times total mults

Submit logs by: 2 June 2013

E-mail logs to: contest@sarl.org.za

Mail logs to: West Rand Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 5344, Weltevreden Park, 1725, South Africa

Find rules at: <http://www.sarl.org.za/>

[Documents/](#)

[SARL Contest Manual 2013 Issue 11.pdf](#)

Next Week's Contest

MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint, 23:00 UTC 27 May to 03:00 UTC 28 May

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 31 May

10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest, 00:00 UTC 1 June to 24:00 UTC 2 June

Maritimes QSO Party, 12:00 - 24:00 UTC 1 June

Alabama QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 1 June to 04:00 UTC 2 June

History This Week for the week starting 20 May

1825 - The electromagnet in a practical form was first exhibited by its inventor, William Sturgeon

1844 - Samuel F.B. Morse completes first telegraph line. Samuel Morse taps out "What hath God wrought" the 1st telegraph message. First telegraphed news dispatch is published in Baltimore Patriot

1862 - A field telegraph was used for the first time in US warfare

1874 - T. A. Edison was issued a patent for a device concerning "Automatic Telegraphy and in Perforators Therefore"

1906 - LH Perlman of New York City applied for a patent for his invention of the demountable tyre-carrying rim

1906 - The brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright received a patent for "new and useful improvements in Flying Machines"

1908 - First passenger flight in an airplane

1916 - Einstein's Theory of General Relativity presented



Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslite, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC News